(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RPF has been vested with powers to apprehend and detain the accused within the rail premises for interrogation before handing over to the concerned local police authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RPF has been upgraded with modern security gadgets like INSAS 5.56mm rifles, AK-47, SLR 7.62mm, Carbine 9 mm, Pistol Auto 9mm, Bullet Proof Jackets and Helmets, Walkie-Talkie, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Dog Squad etc.

On the recommendations of Norms Committee, which had been formed for fixing scales/norms for procurement of modern security related equipment, Ministry of Railways have allocated Rs. 60.76 crore for procurement of security equipment to be used by the RPF.

A Committee comprising of officers from Railways, RPF, IB, CISF, Delhi Police and NSG was constituted by the Ministry of Railways to formulate a Composite Security Plan for the Railways. The committee has submitted its report. It has been approved and the same is being implemented to strengthen security system of railways.

An Integrated Security System is being implemented over stations (including sub-urban stations) of Metro cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and other 140 vulnerable/sensitive stations of Indian Railways. This system comprises of the following broad areas:-

1. Internet protocol based CCTV System with video analytics.
2. Access control.
3. Personal and baggage screening system.
4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With the amendment in RPF Act. 1957 in 2003, RPF has been entrusted with the security of passengers and passengers area. Accordingly Railway Protection Force has been given powers of enquiry and prosecution for various offences under sections 179 & 180 of Railways Act 1989. Furthermore Railway Protection Force has been given powers of enquiry and prosecution of offenders, under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, involved in offences relating to railway property. Offenders involved in IPC related offences within Railway premises are apprehended by RPF personnel and handed over to the Government Railway Police for further prosecution of the case, as per procedure laid down under RPF Act.

Procurement of Wagons

2145. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways is going to procure a record 20,000 wagons during 2008-09 in order to meet shortage of wagons which is a key concern of customers and especially to meet peak time demand;

(b) if so, whether in addition rolling stock with higher capacity is being inducted to improve throughput;

(c) whether Railways are going to plan induction of 250 diesel locomotives and 220 electric locomotives for the next year; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government has been able to obtain it and to what extent it has helped Railways to improve its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways had planned to acquire 20,000 wagons during the year 2008-09.

(b) Order for higher capacity stainless steel wagons have already been placed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since higher carrying capacity Stainless Steel wagons are being manufactured for the first time, there were some initial teething problems which have adversely affected the wagon production. However, production of these wagons is expected to stabilize soon which would enable Railways to meet its' demand and also improve its' functioning.

Gauge conversion of Viramgam-Rajkot railway line

2146. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to convert Viramgam-Rajkot railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no gauge conversion work in Viramgam-Rajkot railway line as this section is already a broad gauge line.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of DMIC

2147. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat regarding rail development for various linkages for overall development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) along the proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per information obtained from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce